

## **“Leaving a Lasting Legacy”**

Genesis 10, 11

“I must take this decision disregarding risks involved and make known the gifts of God and his everlasting consolation. Neither must we fear any such risk in faithfully preaching God’s name boldly in every place, so that even after my death, a spiritual legacy may be left for my brethren and my children.” Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland

Two principles:

1. These are no one – but they are important to God.

“I am important to God”.

2. Nations, cultures, subcultures, tribes, language, people groups, ideologies come from faithful and unfaithful people.

Principle: Your life is affected by those who have gone before you.

Principle: Those who will come after you are greatly affected by your life as well.

Proverbs 10:7 “The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.”

Legacy: Something left behind, something handed down from another generation. A legacy is a process, not an event. It does not happen overnight – it takes a lifetime to create. It is more about what we do than what we say. Legacies are mostly created by example and not by words.

Proverbs 19:14 “Houses and wealth are inherited from parents.”

You tend to base your decisions based on one of four motivations in life: Circumstances. Convenience. Criticism. Convictions.

What is a conviction? A conviction is a deeply held belief that guides your life.

“The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God’s help, I am to be that man.” D.L. Moody

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers and the flowers fall. But the word of our God stands forever.”

Five biblical convictions to help you leave a lasting legacy:

1. It is all about God,

Romans 11:36 “For everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by His power. And everything is intended for His glory.”

Matthew 22:37, 38 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

2. Only the church will last forever.

Matthew 16:18 “I will build my church and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”

1 Corinthians 1:10 “Brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so there won’t be any divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind united in thought and purpose.”

Romans 16:17 “Look out for those who cause people to be against each other and who upset other people’s faith. They are against the true teaching that you learned so stay away from them.”

Titus 3:10 “Warn a divisive person once and then warn him a second time and after that have nothing to do with him.”

3. God expects me to love everybody else too.

Mark 12:31 "The second most important commandment is love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment more important than these two."

We are to love people: who are different, difficult and dangerous.

Luke 6:35 "Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward and you will be children of the most high for He is good to the ungrateful and the wicked."

When you love your enemies you get: a great reward. A good reputation.

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God."

1 Peter 2:17 "Show respect for everyone. Love your Christian brothers and sisters, fear God. Show respect for the king."

1 Peter 2:17 "Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have. But do it with gentleness and respect."

John 15:18, 19 "When the world hates you, remember that it hated me before it hated you. The world would love you if you belonged to it. But you don't."

4. The whole world needs Jesus.

Two problems in Genesis 11: Pride and Purpose.

Principle: God is not all that impressed with us.

Matthew 28:18, 19 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

John 3:17 "I did not come to condemn the world. I came to save it."

2 Corinthians 5:14-16 "Christ's love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view."

Ephesians 6:12, 13 "But we're not fighting against human beings. But against spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers and authorities and cosmic powers of this dark age. So put on God's armor now so that you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks."

5. Everything is possible with God.

Matthew 19:26 "Jesus looked at them and said, 'with man this is impossible but with God all things are possible.'"

Ephesians 3:20 "With God's power working in us, God can do much more than anything we can ask for imagine."

Psalms 79:13 "Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will praise you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise."

Proverbs 22:1 "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous."